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Dated: October 31, 2007 Signature: [Signature]  
(William A. Di Bianca)

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437 CIPCIPCIPCIPCIPCIPICIP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: :  
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Zubok et al. :   
:   
Application No.: 10/782,981 : Group Art Unit: 3738  
:   
:   
Filed: February 20, 2004 : Examiner: B. E.  
: Pellegrino  
:   
:   
For: WEDGE RAMP DISTRACTOR AND :   
RELATED METHODS FOR USE IN  
IMPLANTING  
ARTIFICIALINTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated  
October 9, 2007, finally rejecting claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-16, 20-22  
and 24, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent  
application as follows: